



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 26, 2006

I send greetings to those gathered to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the tragedy at Babyn Yar. I am honored to send a delegation to this event from the United States, led by Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings.

In September of 1941, nearly 34,000 Jews were brutally murdered at Babyn Yar, and over the next 2 years, the Nazis took many thousands more innocent lives at the same site. Today, we continue to mourn this terrible chapter of history and recognize that it remains a source of pain for the people of Ukraine and for all those who believe in freedom, tolerance, and the value and dignity of every human life. We will always remember the lives lost at Babyn Yar, never forgetting the cruelty of the guilty or our responsibility to combat anti-Semitism and prejudice in all forms.

This anniversary continues to serve as a reminder that tyranny can never destroy the desire to be free. Since Ukraine's independence in 1991, the Ukrainian people have demonstrated a firm commitment to freedom for all men and women, and we look with hope toward a bright future for the Ukrainian people.

I appreciate President Yushchenko and all those who contributed to this event. Your good work honors the memory of the victims, promotes mutual understanding among nations, and helps build a more hopeful world for future generations.

Laura and I send our best wishes. May God bless you.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "George W. Bush", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.